



Thomas L. Hickner  
Bay County Executive



**BAY COUNTY**  
**Health Department**  
*Creating A Healthy Environment For The Community*

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

TO: Area Media Outlets

FROM: Tracy Metcalfe  
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DATE: March 8, 2013

RE: **Bay County Health Department Food Service Inspections Available Online**

RUN: Immediate Release

Food service inspections conducted by the Bay County Health Department are now available online. The mission of the Environmental Health's Food Service Section is to protect the health of all foodservice customers. A person who wishes to serve food to the public is required by law to first obtain a license from Bay County Health Department. These licenses are issued following a review of facility plans and menu and assuring, by inspection, compliance with food safety standards and practices. Routine inspections during subsequent operation of the food service assess the operator's success in assuring that routine practices are conducted in a safe and sanitary manner.

"Bay County continually strives to make information readily available to the public and we are pleased to provide such a tool to the public for the first time," said Thomas L. Hickner, County Executive. "Consumers want to know their food is safe. By routinely inspecting over 400 food establishments in the County, Bay County Sanitarians are working diligently to protect public health by preventing foodborne illness and injury."

"It is important for those looking at online reports to understand that any inspection report is just a snapshot in time", stated Barbara MacGregor, Bay County Health Director. "Each individual report shows only the conditions of the facility at the time of the inspection. A single inspection report should not be used to judge a business or food service facility. Looking at a facility's inspection results over a period of time gives a more accurate picture of that facility's commitment to proper and safe food handling."

The internet offers an opportunity to share information, which may assist you in being a well-informed food service consumer. If you are interested in obtaining information on any food establishment in Bay County, visit the Environmental Health's Food Service webpage at <http://www.baycounty-mi.gov/health/foodserviceinformation.aspx> and click on Food Service Inspections.

For more information, contact the Bay County Health Department's Environmental Health Division at 989-895-4006.